

Children helping children: UNO Childcare Center raising funds for tsunami victims

ANGI SADA
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The day after Christmas, the Indian Ocean, which has provided food and income for so many Hindus and Muslims on her shores, rose up against the people who look to share in her bounty. Wiping out entire villages and crippling nations, the tsunamis left the sea littered with bodies and the land holding thousands of newly orphaned children.

In an effort to aid the millions of children displaced and otherwise adversely affected by the tsunamis in South Asia, UNO's smallest citizens are holding a penny drive. According to Sandy Wlaschin, Assistant Director of the UNO Childcare Center, the children will collect until Jan. 31. There is no projected goal, but donations are exceeding expectations.

"We didn't really set an ultimate goal. We started counting pennies and I realized that we had actually set our thermometer too low," she said referring to the construction paper wall display put up to track the donations.

The center's staff decided that they had to do something to help the children, the tsunami's smallest victims. The project is one of many community service projects designed to teach the children, ages 18 months through five years, enrolled in the program about

the importance volunteerism and community involvement.

"We always do public service projects



Michelle Bishop
Kadin Saderstrom, 2, (left) puts a penny into a milk jug as Brianna Liu, 3, and teacher Jessica Brock watch.

to teach the children that there is a broader world. That there (are) people who need our help," Wlaschin said.

She went on to explain that the approach had to be simple to make the project accessible to the children without frightening them.

"We didn't teach them about the tsunamis because we don't want to scare them. We just

told them there's children that we're raising money for so we could help them get money for a house, so they have a warm place to sleep and so they can have food to eat," she said.

Wlaschin said that the project is being done in conjunction with another childcare center in the Omaha area.

"Since my daughter is an infant she doesn't attend here. We challenged (her childcare center) Omaha 2000 so we could double it up. We can get even more money raised for the Red Cross or whoever will accept our donations," Wlaschin said.

There is an "open-door" policy on this fundraiser. According to Wlaschin, several parents of children enrolled in the program work on campus and have collection jugs in their offices and there is a jug located at the front counter of the childcare center's offices.

The collected funds will be given to a yet undetermined organization to assist in providing services and goods for children in affected countries such as Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Wlaschin hopes that this project benefits all of the children involved.

Stolen items total \$4,300

CRYSTAL R. REID
NEWS EDITOR

The total amount goods stolen from the three University Village break-ins that occurred during the December holiday break exceeds \$4,300.

There are currently two Omaha Police Department detectives working on the three separate break-ins, Detective Dan Williams and Detective Christy Bart. Five students suffered losses ranging from a couple hundred to a couple thousand dollars. Bart is working with one victim and Williams is working with the other four.

According to the police reports, all residences were broken into by forcing the apartment doors open. None of the residents were in the building at the time.

Laptops were the most common thing stolen, according to Williams.

The detectives originally had a suspect who was released after questioning. There are currently no other suspects.

"We don't have any additional leads to follow up on," Williams said.

Both detectives believe that the burglaries are connected, since they happened so close together.

Williams said that often information comes when future crimes are committed, leaving

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Students talk about potential partial smoking ban in Omaha

CRYSTAL R. REID AND ANGI SADA
NEWS EDITOR SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Omaha City Council voted on a partial smoking ban last Tuesday. The ban passed 4-3, but Mayor Mike Fahey plans to veto it next week, according to his chief of staff, Paul Landow.

Fahey plans to veto the partial smoking ban because of its loopholes. The ban would only include establishments that serve food, excluding bars and keno. Fahey's intent would be to install a total smoking ban in public and private establishments.

Only a few UNO students were polled, but most are generally against a smoking ban in the bars, despite a smoking or nonsmoking preference.

Third year student Shannon Edgar does

not think that smoking should be banned in bars.

"I'm okay with (a smoking ban) in restaurants and everything," Edgar said. "I just don't think bars should be smoke free at all. I think it's safer for smokers to smoke inside."

But Edgar does not think she should have to deal with other people's smoke while she's trying to eat.

"I don't want to go to a restaurant and have other people endangering my health. I chose not to smoke so I don't want to be around it."

Mike Ferris, another third year student, agrees.

"I think it's okay, as long as there are those designated places, like bars, where you know there's going to be smoke. Places where you're not going to bring your

kids to. You don't want to have smoking at Chucky Cheese."

"You're probably not going to be hauling

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Munira Amini
Dan Moluf lights a cigarette Tuesday afternoon.

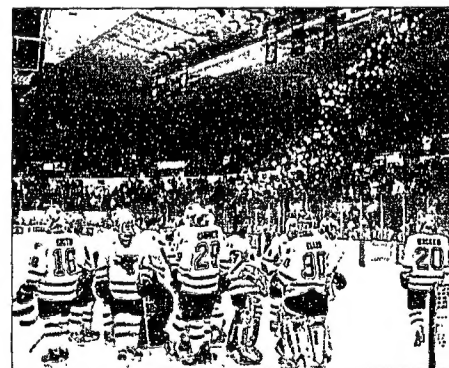
Back to the Bullpen: Hockey team plans old-school weekend for old home return

BRIAN BRASHAW
COPY EDITOR

The media guide reads "Civic Auditorium historians say that it may have been the loudest crowd ever to attend a sporting event at that building." The 8,314 strong created an echo nearly strong enough to collapse the roof on the old barn.

Remember this? This is a phrase taken from the last word said about the Civic Auditorium. It commemorates the first home playoff game for the UNO hockey program, a Tuesday night play-in game against Bowling Green. Jeff Hoggan etched his name in Maverick lore forever with two goals to send the Mavericks to "the Joe" (Detroit's Joe Louis Arena, home of the Central Collegiate Hockey Association's playoff rounds).

It all ended in March of 2003 with an all-Maverick festival. UNOMavericks2, Minnesota-Mankato Mavericks, 2. Balloons dropped, Greg Zanon gave one last wave, Joe Periera cried and then the doors shut.



Michelle Bishop
Balloons fall from the ceiling at the end of the last home game for the Mavericks at the Civic.

fans, the quaint and cozy amenities and possibly the season's first sell out. The Qwest-era kids will carry these experiences for at least one more generation of Mavericks. But they won't be

See **HOCKEY:** Page 3

Omaha Weather

Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Chance of Snow H: 32 L: 25	Chance of Snow H: 35 L: 23	Chance of Snow H: 36 L: 23	Mostly Cloudy H: 37 L: 21

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News Briefs

COMPILED BY CRYSTAL R. REID
NEWS EDITOR

Neighborhood Builders sessions begin Feb. 5

The Neighborhood Center for Greater Omaha – in conjunction with the United Way of the Midlands, UNO, the Omaha Community Foundation, Creighton University Medical Center, and various neighborhood associations, businesses and private citizens – will present Neighborhood Builders this February.

The four-week program – set for Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – is designed to help build stronger, healthier neighborhoods in Douglas, Pottawattamie and Sarpy counties by assisting in developing positive leadership.

Each session will focus on a different topic block. The topics include building on neighborhood assets, using community resources, planning and organizing and effective problem solving. The sessions will be facilitated by community leaders, local educators and business people. Lunch is included.

Participants who complete all four sessions will receive a Builder's Award.

Class size is limited, and registration is conducted on a first-come, first-served basis. The registration deadline is Feb. 1. All classes will be held in the Becic Room at Creighton University Medical Center, 601 N. 30th St. Free parking is available in the visitor lot.

For more information or to register, contact Mark Simmons at (402) 561-7575, or visit the Web site at www.neighborhood-center.org.

UNO Community Counseling Clinic open to students, faculty and staff

The UNO Community Counseling Clinic, located on the fourth floor of Kayser Hall, offers free services to UNO students, faculty and staff.

The clinic is staffed by counselors who are graduate-level students finishing their master's degree in community counseling. They are supervised by a Ph.D.-level counselor. Confidentiality is respected.

Services include individual, family and group counseling, as well as assessment and referrals. Clinic hours are as follows:

Monday through Thursday
1 to 7 p.m. (sessions may be scheduled for 7 p.m.)
Saturday
9 to 11 a.m.

This service is free to all UNO students, faculty and staff. Rates for the general public are as follows:

Individual session - \$10
Couples/families - \$15
These rates are negotiable. To schedule an appointment, call 554-2727.

Bookstore apparel sale is under way

The UNO Bookstore is currently offering discounts on select

Maverick/UNO apparel items. A wide variety of marked down T-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets and hats are available while selections last. Discounts range from 30 to 75 percent off.

Bookstore sale hours are as follows:

Monday through Thursday
7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday
7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Jacinda Brooks at jbrooks@mail.unomaha.edu.

HPER Pool to close for Maverick swim meet

The Health, Physical Recreation and Education Building (HPER) Pool will be open limited hours today and tomorrow, in conjunction with the Maverick Swim Meet.

The HPER pool will close at 4 p.m. today and will not reopen until 2 p.m. tomorrow. The masters practice will be held as scheduled tomorrow from 8:45 to 10:45 a.m. No other aquatic programs will be held.

For more information contact Eric Shanks at 554-2223.

Lambda Theta Nu Informational

Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Inc. would like to invite anyone interested to attend

an informational tomorrow at 2 p.m. For more information on location and details please call Cristina C. at 612-3254.

From STOLEN ITEMS: Page 1

more evidence. Other information could come from a suspect from a different case willing to offer information to help reduce the severity of his sentence.

Two break-ins were reported on the same day, Dec. 25, 2004 when students returned to their dorms to find them ransacked. The third was reported on Dec. 29, 2004.

Campus Security is still working with the officers to help recover the stolen items.

Bart advocates that everyone records serial numbers in case of a burglary and takes other precautions if planning a vacation.

"Let your neighbors know if you're leaving," Bart said.

She also advocates calling the police or campus security if you ever see anything suspicious. Don't assume other people will call.

From SMOKING: Page 1

your toddlers off to the bar," Ferris said.

Senior Kate Rezac is a social smoker and is against all smoking bans, partial or total.

"I think it's crap. If the individual proprietor wants to let you smoke, then you should be able to. If you don't like it, then don't go there."

Lincoln bars went into a total smoking blackout starting at midnight on Jan. 1. Very few bars have noted a considerable change in business, although the partial ban may affect bar establishments that serve even the smallest food portions.

Bars like Billy Frog's and the Crescent Moon are mainly liquor establishments, but offer menus. These bars would be affected by a ban.

"I think they should go for it, because not everybody needs to get harmful chemicals that don't smoke," said Mike Norenberg, a freshman and a nonsmoker. "Some people have the wrong idea, like they don't want to go out because of the smoking. I go out regardless."

Crime Log

COMPILED BY KRISTEN FUCHSER
STAFF WRITER

Tuesday, Jan 18, 2005

4 p.m. Student reported theft of personal property from vehicle parked at First Christian Church. Theft occurred between 8:10 a.m. and 3:45 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2005

10:10 a.m. Faculty member reported Hate Crime material posted in Rosken's Hall.

3:30 p.m. Staff member reported theft of University property from Eppley Administration Building. Theft occurred between 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 7, 2005 and 8 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2005.

Friday, Jan. 21, 2005

11:36 a.m. Student reported theft from vehicle parked at First Christian Church. Incident occurred between 8:45 a.m. and 11:35 a.m.

1:15 p.m. Student reported theft from vehicle parked at First Christian Church. Incident occurred between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

1:30 p.m. Student reported theft from vehicle parked at First Christian Church. Incident occurred between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

1:40 p.m. Student reported theft from vehicle parked at First Christian Church. Incident occurred between 8:30 a.m. and noon.

Student Government Speakers

Anyone wishing to speak during the Open Forum portion of Student Government's Senate meetings should contact Senate Speaker Steve Massara 48 hours prior to the meeting at 554-2720. Meetings are held every other Thursday at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome!



For special needs or accommodations, please call 554-2620 (TTY 554-3799).

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FEATURES

Sarah Legg | Features Editor

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features@gateway.unomaha.edu | January 28, 2005

Spring is in the air at Lauritzen Gardens

JAIME POTTHAST
STAFF WRITER

Snow may be covering the ground, but spring is definitely still in the air at Lauritzen Gardens, Omaha's botanical center.

Lauritzen Gardens is well known for its stunning natural displays, vast gardens and woodland trail. Even with the snow, Lauritzen still offers plenty of activities for adults and children during the winter season.

Their indoor floral display is in full bloom. This display showcases a variety of spring flowering plants and is open from Jan. 13 through May 8. Along with the changing flowering plants, this display

Garden Explorers, a new series of programs will begin designed to teach children about the wonders of the natural world. A new gardening topic will be discussed each month through activities, garden walks and take-home projects. This will allow children to witness the garden changing throughout each season. It may also include some hands-on projects. Garden Explorers is aimed at children ages seven to 10.

The art exhibit "Canadian Wilderness" has been open since Jan. 10. This photographic exhibit by Daniel Templeton, who began photographing professionally in Omaha in 1993, will be available through Feb. 18.

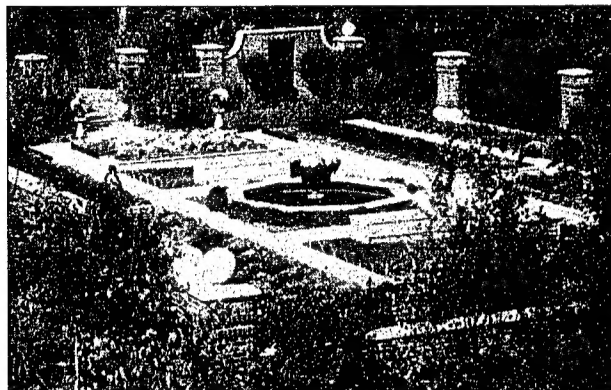
Looking for somewhere romantic for

you and your sweetheart to celebrate Valentine's Day? The Lauritzen Gardens is housing a dinner in the floral display hall on Monday, Feb. 14. This dinner offers a selection of main courses and includes one complimentary glass of wine. For more information or to make reservations call Merri at (402) 346-4002 ext. 201.

Lauritzen has more than 10 different gardens which are available for

rental for weddings and parties in different gardens geared towards different occasions. They also have a café that is open daily from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. offering sandwiches, soups, salads and desserts. A gift shop is also on site with unique items to buy.

Location: Lauritzen Gardens is located at First and Bancroft streets.
Hours: Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. everyday except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.
Admission: Admission is \$6 for adults and seniors, \$3 for children ages six to 12 and free for members and children under 6.



The Gateway

also includes enhanced meandering paths, several soothing pools and benches.

During January and February, Lauritzen Gardens is also hosting a variety of special programs open to the public.

Some of these programs include the preschool program Lil' Sprouts, Winter Weather, the Spring Flower Show and many more. Pre-registration is required for most events. To register, call Cindy Sobaski at (402) 346-4002 ext. 212 or for more information on activities visit www.omahabotanicalgardens.org.

Beginning in January,

From **HOCKEY: Page 1**

alone in sharing the Civic once again.

Besides Mike Lefley, Brett Davis and Dan Hacker, the only current Mavericks who have played at the Civic, the team will be joined at the first intermission by several former players. It is also rumored the Fred Brooks, the old public address announcer will make a return for the weekend. The idea is to make this feel like home, the way home used to be.

In hindsight, the Civic is the perfect place for this series. It will generate a buzz that the series itself honestly isn't worthy of. UNO is a fledgling power and Wayne State is, well Wayne State.

Is there an over-under on how many locals will ask 'is this Wayne State College?' No, it isn't.

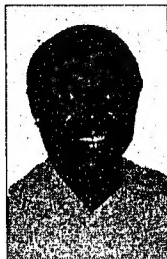
This series would draw maybe 7,000 at the Qwest Center bringing the place to half-capacity. But this old-school theme will draw an element of curiosity out of even the most casual fan who has attended a UNO hockey game. The good news about that is that UNO may get its only sell-outs this week because of it. The series is being billed more as a side-show than a hockey series, which is actually a good thing as it adds to the entertainment value. Plus students get into this one for free also, one bonus that was never available before at the Civic.

The only question is, will it distract the Mavs? If UNO loses, even ties one of these games, the side-show nostalgia theme didn't work. This is an opportunity for the fans as well as the old teammates and the program itself to have fun with hockey, at a time when they need a mental relaxer before the stretch. But UNO must still keep winning.

One mission will be accomplished, and one debate may be smothered out. The debate on whether it is better that UNO play at the Civic or the Qwest. The glittery jewel or the comfy house? Fans take the good memories from the Civic, but one fact remains. Its old and its outdated. Will the potential ambience overcome that? Can it, as many fans suspect? Will the unanimous praises of the Qwest finally be sung? When the Mavericks go back to the Bullpen this weekend, we will know.

20 Questions for a UNO student

BECKY BOYER
STAFF WRITER



determined

Name: Lauren

Opere

Major: Business

Year: Sophomore

Hometown: Omaha

1. Describe yourself in five words:

"Quiet, hard-working, and stubborn, and funny."

2. What is your most proud accomplishment and why?

"Probably getting accustomed to moving from Kenya to Omaha, and being able to do well in school."

3. What would you most like to accomplish in the future?

"Successful business woman, good career and family."

4. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

"Probably still in school."

5. Who is your favorite performer/band right now?

"Jill Scott."

6. What is your favorite movie of all time?

"I really like *Remember the Titans*."

7. Who is your favorite actor/actress?

"Halle Berry, Denzel Washington."

8. What is in your CD player right now?

"I never had one. If I did have one it'd be Boyz II Men."

9. What album/song would sum up the past year of your life?

"'Golden' by Jill Scott."

10. What resolutions did you make for

the new year and did you keep them?

"Well, actually come to class the whole semester and try to study, so far I've been pretty good."

11. Why did you choose to attend UNO?

"I didn't get a scholarship to Creighton, but I got a scholarship to UNO."

12. What would you change about UNO?

"HPER, it's really small. They need to make that bigger."

13. What is the best thing about UNO?

"You know a lot of people, and learn about little towns that you've never heard of before."

14. What advice would you give to incoming freshmen?

"Don't slack too much your first year."

15. Do you have anything that you'd like to say to your professors?

"That some teachers don't think we have lives outside of their class, (they) have to realize that we work and have other classes."

16. What person would you most like to meet from history and what would you ask them?

"Jesus, just talk to him."

17. If you could live anywhere, where would it be?

"Omaha. I like Omaha, it's the perfect place."

18. What is your favorite place you've visited?

"I really like Chicago, I've been there like six times."

19. What's your favorite book?

"*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen."

20. What would you like for us to ask the next person interviewed?

"How's your day going?"



Attention all Student Veterans and Military Personnel

The Pen and Sword student organization will be having its first meeting.

MBSC Jenkins Room, 3rd Floor
Wednesday, Feb. 2 at noon

For further information contact:
Lawrence W Bradley 554-2662 lbradley@mail.unomaha.edu

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Ethan Hawke stands out in *Assault on Precinct 13*

REVIEW BY ANDREW CUMBEE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Let me say one thing before I really get into this review. I did not see the original 1976 John Carpenter version of this movie. I have no idea how that may have affected my appreciation for this remake, so I'll talk about it like the original doesn't exist. Just for your information, though, from what I've read and heard, the original is still the best.

That being said, the new *Assault on Precinct 13* is a very entertaining flick. It isn't necessarily a great movie, but on the other hand, it's not expected to be. The question isn't whether this will win Best Picture at the Oscars next year, it's 'are you going to have a good time at the movies?' The answer is, "Yes. Definitely yes."

The film takes place on New Year's Eve/Day. Laurence Fishburne plays a legendary criminal that has finally been taken to prison after killing a police officer. He's meant to be transported, but a storm forces the prison transport bus to stop at Precinct 13,



Rogue Pictures

an old precinct set to be shut down. After his arrival, his newly betrayed business partners come to kill him, and basically, everyone in Precinct 13 (hence the "Assault on"). Ethan Hawke is the presiding officer who must take charge to protect the people under him and his prisoners. After he realizes that there's no way out of this predicament, officers and

prisoners must unite to fight the army on the outside.

The plot is pretty basic. In fact, the title tells the basic idea of the story. The thing that makes *Assault on Precinct 13* work, though, is the work of everyone involved in this movie. Writer James DeMonaco

provides some great characters and all the actors are perfect. This is one of the best casts in a movie that I have seen in a while. The only weak link for me here is Fishburne, who doesn't really come off as the villain he is touted to be. Hawke's performance on the other hand, ranks as one of his best. He has created his most well-rounded and thought-

out character.

DeMonaco doesn't pull any punches in this film, and that's what helps *Assault* overcome the obvious clichés of the genre. This movie is not too horribly predictable, and that's a great thing for an action flick.

Making his first American movie, director Jean-Francois Richet has made a successful suspense film with plenty of drama. He knocked this film out of the park for what it is, and it will be interesting to see where he takes that talent.

The only major complaint here is the special effects. CG blood is a terrible idea and should never be used. In *Assault*, it is too obvious and cringe-inducing, not from gore, but from crapiness.

Like I said earlier, this is an entertaining movie. It isn't great and it isn't a classic, but it is definitely worth the price of admission. You shouldn't leave *Assault on Precinct 13* disappointed.

Grade: B+

M. Night Shyamalan's *The Village* DVD doesn't skimp on special features

REVIEW BY ANJANE GILES
STAFF WRITER

The Village is a suspenseful tale of a community set in the 19th century, isolated from the rest of the world and living in fear of creatures that lurk beyond the woods of their small town. It is an almost imaginary world where everything is simple and everyone is kind towards one another. As in most cases, nothing stays perfect forever. When the town's young people become curious about the outside world, the elders frantically try to protect their secret which led them to the village in the beginning.

The film stars Jacquin Phoenix (*Ladder 49*), Bryce Dallas Howard, and Academy Award winner William Hurt. It is directed by M. Night Shyamalan, the master mind behind the box office hits *Signs* and *The Sixth Sense*.

The DVD, released on Jan. 11, includes more than 40 minutes of commentary and special features, including a production photo gallery, and one of Shyamalan's early home

movies. Shyamalan describes the process of getting each cast member to adapt to the 19th century way of life in order to really make the movie come alive and seem as real as possible. One feature on the DVD explains how the entire cast had to go through what Shyamalan called "boot camp" in order for everyone to learn what life was like in a small village in the 1800s.



Touchstone Pictures

Also included on the DVD is a diary of cast member Bryce Dallas Howard, who plays the main character, Ivy Walker. She explains the feelings of being on the set everyday, and how

transforming herself into her character for months at a time actually made her character a reality.

There are also 11 minutes of deleted scenes that Shyamalan walks you through, commentary from the artist who created the creatures for the movie and the construction of the real village on a 600-acre parcel in Pennsylvania. All of the commentary gives you an interesting behind-the-scenes look at Shyamalan's reason for creating the thriller, and insight on the story itself.

COMMENTARY BY BRENT CRAMPTON
STAFF WRITER

Putting the spring back in Bada Bing

With the expanding market of posh clubs and lounges in the area, the fallout rate of old-school bars and nightclubs is rapidly increasing. A sense of patronage to one particular nightlife spot is fleeting. Instead we have nomadic herds of socialites opting to perpetually search for the next "hot spot." Because of this phenomenon, the common practice in large metropolitan cities of reinventing a venue is a must if an establishment wants to keep the attention of the sheep.

This truth in the club industry is not surprising. What is surprising is that the venue following this practice isn't in Omaha ... it's in Council Bluffs.

One step ahead of the pack, and under new management, Bada Bing in Council Bluffs has been transformed into Bada Bing Ultra Lounge.

Bada Bing, once a hot spot for the nightlife, is being transformed this Saturday.

Manager Greg Poor said the lounge has been repainted, refurnished and even restaffed. While it will keep the same theme and atmosphere of Bada Bing. At midnight (when Iowa bars get busy since Omaha bars are getting ready to shut down), the lounge will take on a dance club feel with house DJs and video screens.

The entertainment for the grand reopening night will include acoustic guitarist Clint Harris from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. From there, Ultramusique.

com will book house and hip hop DJs. The lounge will premier a video series on three

different screen projectors, created exclusively for the lounge. One of the participants in the video, Amy Cooper, a finalist in the Playboy Cyber Girl of the Year contest, will be on site to sign autographs. Table reservations are highly recommended. Check out all the action at 144 West Broadway in Council Bluffs.

Update on Cymbalism

Last semester *The Gateway* interviewed the people behind the then-new Omaha record label, Cymbalism. Only four months later and Tommie Emmie and Shawn Patrick have already established their company as a top label in the drum and bass world.

Rob Haigh of the music production guise, Omni Trio, has released more than 30 singles and remixes and six full-length albums in the drum and bass scene over the last decade. An artist of that stature would want to choose wisely when releasing the latest material under the Omni Trio title, and Mr. Haigh has chosen none other than Cymbalism Records to do this.

While Cymbalism's original intent was to give lesser known drum and bass producers a voice in the music market, the label has gone on to sign big names. In order to stay true to their roots, a sister label, Cymbalism Limited, was constructed. While releasing EPs with up-and-coming producers on one side, they leave the other side of the 12" for established names to help sell the product.

Cymbalism music is available nearly everywhere on the Web where good drum and bass is sold. Locally you can pick it up at the Antiquarium record shop downtown or from the www.CymbalismRecordings.com Web site. Or just check out Cymbalism music in action as DJ and label founder, Emmie, a.k.a. DJ Plan 9, will spin at the Bricktop (1427 O St., Lincoln) on Feb. 4.

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Wrestlers win NWCA National Dual crown

J. PARKER ADAIR
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It may not have been the cake-walk hoped for, but UNO's defending national champion wrestlers captured the National Wrestling Coaches Association National Duals last weekend in Cleveland, Ohio.

The Mavericks won their first National Dual title since 1997 by edging four top-ten teams. UNO beat No. 10 Findlay 29-14, No. 8 Minnesota-Mankato 18-15, No. 4 Nebraska-Kearney 30-6 and No. 2 Augustana 20-18.

UNO took seven of the ten matches against Findlay and each win came by at least four points

avenged an NCAA tournament loss to Dustin Tovar by winning their 125-pound match 5-3. The Mavs countered by winning seven consecutive matches, going up 27-3. Jeff Sylvester helped UNO win the national championship last year by upsetting North Dakota State's Brian Kraemer in their championship match. Sylvester kept allegiance to his own Nebraska school winning at 197 before Sigman closed out the convincing decision Saturday.

That set up a second-consecutive one-vs.-two final match. Last year, No. 1 North Dakota beat Central Oklahoma on criteria. This year, UNO survived a scare to win 20-18.

Conference and regional opponent



courtesy photo
Ben Strandberg breaks down Josh Janousek from Minnesota-Mankato at the Kaufman/Brand Open. UNO beat Mankato en route to the National Dual title last weekend.

with top-ranked heavyweight Les Sigman recording a technical fall. Dustin Tovar (125 pounds), Steve Conlin (174) and Ben Strandberg (197) each recorded major decisions.

That evening, UNO dropped North Central Conference and regional foe Mankato. Each team won five matches, but UNO took major decisions from Eli Dominguez, Patrick Alibone and J.D. Naig to secure the three-point win.

Two years ago, Kearney beat UNO in the finals of the dual tournament. The teams meet for a regularly scheduled dual each year, and the in-state wrestling rivalry is one of the strongest in all sports.

Early on, it looked as though Kearney had a chance at costing UNO another dual tournament championship. No. 1 Bryce Abbey

Augustana held a 10-7 lead halfway through and took an 18-14 lead thanks to major decisions at 184 and 197 pounds. Les Sigman won a medical forfeit to give UNO the title, reminiscent of the NCAA win last season. Viking Tom Meester beat NDSU's Thad Pike for the 184 title, and Sigman won the tournament when his opponent could not continue.

Sigman, Naig and UNO all retained top spots in the NCAA rankings. UNO received all eight first-place votes once again. Augustana, Nebraska-Kearney, Central Oklahoma, Minnesota State-Mankato round out the top five. Sigman and Naig were each 4-0 on the weekend.

Dustin Tovar (sixth-125 pounds), Mitch Waite (fifth-133), Eli Dominguez (fourth-141), Shane Unger (second-149) and Chas DeVetter (eighth-157) are also ranked.

The Mavericks return home to host Augsburg College in a dual meet at 7 p.m. tonight at the Sapp Fieldhouse.

Mavericks win South Dakota Graphic Edge Alumni Meet

THOMAS LAMAY
STAFF WRITER

Even as outside temperatures in Vermillion, S.D. dipped into the single digits, the Maverick track and field team remained red hot inside the DakotaDome. The team took home its first hardware of the season as it clinched the women's team title, edging out South Dakota by 20.5 points. Truman State, Augustana, Chadron State, and Wayne State followed the Mavericks and Coyotes in team scoring.

In all, the Mavericks captured six individual titles and scored points in almost every event. UNO's top athlete was newcomer Anastasia Kyvelidou, who won three titles in the 60-meter hurdles, long jump and triple jump. She also placed in the top 10 in the shot put, taking eighth.

Kyvelidou, who is leading the nation as the top performer in the 60-meter hurdles, triple jump and long jump, dominated the competition by a sizable margin. She again reset the school's record books in the 60-meter hurdles, taking the race with a time of 8.62 seconds. The time also automatically qualified her for the NCAA Division II Indoor Championships, March 11 and 12 in Boston, Mass.

Kyvelidou also beat her own record in the triple jump and long jump, leaping 12.39 and 6.09 meters, respectively. Both jumps were nearly automatic marks for nationals as well. Kyvelidou will need distances of 12.4 meters (40 feet 8-3/4 inches) and 6.15 meters (20 feet 2 inches) to automatically qualify for Boston.

Kellie Ryan took home her second title of the season, winning the 3000-meter race in

fine fashion, with a time of 10 minutes 43.88 seconds. Ryan, a junior from Plattsmouth, Neb., beat several runners who bested her at the North Central Conference Cross Country Championships including Amy Steckelberg, Kaylee Keating, and Amanda Roemen of South Dakota, and her teammate Molly Miller, who finished in second place.

The Mavericks took home two other individual titles. Laverne Monger, finished first in the 60 and 200-meter dash events. Monger, who improved her time in the 60-meter race, has also provisionally qualified for nationals in each race.

Becky Hughes, a freshman from Bellevue East, captured second place in the 400-meter race, in a time of 58.32 seconds, and placed fifth in the 200-meter race. Hughes also contributed to the Mav's 1600-meter relay team, which took second place behind the University of South Dakota.

Other Mavericks placed in almost every event, twenty different athletes all scored points for the team.

In the triple jump, UNO took home first through fourth place with Kyvelidou, Ramona Zepiher, Debbie Akerly, and Taira Baker. Akerly also placed second in the 60-meter hurdles and long jump.

The Mavericks next travel to the Iowa State Open, Jan. 28-29 in Ames, Iowa. The team will face NCC athletes from Augustana, Mankato State, and St. Cloud State, as well as Division II foes from Central Missouri and Lewis University. The meet will be held at the Lied Athletic Facility, which is home to the world's only eight-lane, indoor 300-meter track.

Mav Notes

Mav men move to No. 20

With its 87-76 win over South Dakota last week, the Maverick men's basketball team moved up to No. 20 in the latest NABC poll. Ranked No. 23 last week, and as high at No. 5, the men are 16-3 on the year.

Editor's note: Thursday's game with St. Cloud State was played after press.

Kyvelidou earns NCC honors

Anastasia Kyvelidou earned North Central Conference female track and field athlete of the week honors for her performance at the DakotaDome last

weekend. Kyvelidou won three titles in the meet and earned an automatic birth in the NCAA II Track and Field National Meet in Boston.

Thies named NCC player of the week

Karen Thies earned women's basketball player of the week honors from the North Central Conference for her performance in a 67-61 win over South Dakota last weekend. Thies scored 18 points and added nine rebounds and seven assists for the Mavericks in the win. This is the second time in three weeks she has received the honor.

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Registration 3-5

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Omaha is like a fat girl with a pretty face; it would be better if...

Omaha is like a fat girl with a pretty face. The people around her have a tendency to say things about how pretty she'd be were she willing to change to suit them. They focus on how she has failed to meet their expectations without ever appreciating the beauty she holds and the attention she commands just as she is. In effect, these detractors become her one true hindrance. They are prohibitive of her depth and development. They stop her from being all that she is and, in turn, hamper their own growth.

In layman's terms, the only things that aren't good about Omaha are the Omahans.

In a city where native sons and expatriates to the coasts, Connor Oberst and Alexander Payne, are worshiped like gods for their ability to transcend the normalcy of home, we are obsessed with berating or neglecting that which is different. Many have taken to mimicking the ways of Oberst and Payne, evidenced by the new desire of so many to become filmmakers and the gallery of sound-alike bands in the area. Some believe that Omaha should receive accolades for offering up these two sacrifices to the deities of cosmopolitan life; that we created them. We live wrapped in a wet blanket of entitlement that is rarely justified by the masses.

Two weeks ago, Mutual of Omaha hosted an event where local swimmers had the opportunity to meet and speak with six Olympic swimmers from last year's games in Athens. This event, meant to drum up support and prove our worthiness to host time trials for the next summer games, garnered only a sixty second blurb with Playboy model and gold medalist Amanda Beard on one television station and 500 words on the back page of the sports section in the local newspaper, illustrating how Omaha tends to shoot itself in the foot over and over again.

Like the little sister who wants to play with the big kids, we whine and jump up and down saying, "It's not fair. We never get a turn. We want a turn." When the time comes to prove that we deserve a chance to hang with the big boys like Los Angeles, Chicago, San Diego and New York we stumble over ourselves to criticize who we truly are. This obscene and droning act of ingratiating Omaha to these larger cities perpetuates the idea that we are nothing more than a little sister. We will never be seen as peers in the metropolitan status pool because of it.

There seems to be a lack of self-esteem that keeps Omaha from believing in itself. Shifting blame makes it impossible to cure. It's easy for those of us who beat the liberal drum to say that the root of Omaha's problems are those in red. But the core of liberalism is activism not pessimism.

I have a hard time understanding the new wave of apathy that I see washing over the twenty something's of the area. I especially see it in a group of disaffected, fair-skinned upper middle class kids that flock to Dr. Michael Skau's Beats and Hippies class to better connect with their disenfranchisement. They are so quick to complain of their internal strife, and how Omaha is the root of so many of these problems, that they fail to see how many of these problems can be solved by exploring Omaha.

I have often said how much I need to leave Omaha. So, I did. I took it upon myself to begin exploring these cities that I was taught were much greater than Omaha. In Los Angeles, I was awash in uncertainty the minute I pulled off

Bitter with Age



Angi Sada

the Hollywood freeway onto Santa Monica Boulevard. In New York, I was floored by how classless the tourists were, standing arm in arm, smiling ear to ear as they snapped pictures in front of a gray hole that had swallowed 3,000 lives in the middle of a September morning. But, I still loved the energy that both cities held and was humbled by hospitality that their citizens showed, especially in New York. That hospitality was dwarfed only by their feelings of pride and home team loyalty. It is this pride

that enables these cities to further their own causes. It empowers them and allows them to shamelessly self-promote.

Upon flying into Omaha after a less than stellar trip to San Diego, I saw how truly beautiful Omaha is. Bedazzled with blinking streetlights, from above even Council Bluffs looked divine. I had to leave home to love home. That distance graciously gave perspective.

A closer look at Omahans by Omahans could muster up greater evidence of our own abilities. A trip to the Old Market should be more than a trip to the bar. These buildings house history thereby housing artifacts and historians.

The double doors that lead into The Antiquarium also lead to the most amazingly intelligent and cosmopolitan person I have ever met in any of the cities I have been. Thomas Rudloff encourages the pursuits of knowledge and art by welcoming all that cross the threshold to this bookstore/art gallery/music store and by sharing his singular and staggering wealth of knowledge upon polite request. And he does it quietly in Omaha.

We have amongst our ranks historians, actors, writers, musicians and entrepreneurs. We have a world-class museum with permanent holdings that include works by some of the most famous artists of all time including Jackson Pollock, Titian and Claude Monet. Theoretically, the building itself is a work of art. Go there and ask any staff member. He will beam with the same kind of pride you'd see on a New Yorker's face when you ask about the carousel in Central Park. (I'd tell you, but I'd rather dare you to research it for yourself.)

The Orpheum Theatre has been renovated to accommodate the increase of Broadway-caliber shows they have been bringing to Omaha. Many of the eateries in town rank amongst some of the best in the nation. I have seen Jim's Rib Haven on Ames Street mentioned as some of the best barbecue in the country in eating guides from all over the nation.

Despite all of this, we shrink back from the progress that our Midwest working-class upbringing has offered us. Calling it substandard and disallowing it to compete with other metropolitan areas for fear of failure or rejection guarantees only two things: failure and rejection.

We live in a city with more than the basic prattle of Chamber of Commerce suggested attractions. Beyond Henry Doorly Zoo and Rosenblatt Stadium and deeper than the cobblestone streets of the Old Market are treasures and potential that far outranks that of larger metropolitan areas. Rise up above having potential to a level that insists that you apply that potential until it is exhausted. It is a heavy burden to hold it captive. You must plant these seeds to taste the fruit.

Potential is immeasurable, frightening and, in Omaha's case, crippling. As a community we must all learn to walk with our heads up so that we might run with the metropolitan giants of our nation.

New legislation takes stab at liquor laws, who does it serve?

Sit back and relax as I take you on a magical journey into the world of Nebraska State Legislature.

Last week, several new legislative bills were introduced. All of which will undoubtedly have an effect on college age people like you and I, if they are passed.

For some reason or another, state lawmakers have chosen to go after the liquor industry this year and introduced bills that would hold tavern owners responsible for the actions of patrons, raise the state taxes on alcohol and toughen penalties on repeat drunk drivers.

According to an Omaha newspaper, Legislative Bill 592 would hold taverns legally responsible for serving an intoxicated person who later causes injury or an accident. I have a few questions regarding this bill.

First of all, who will decide who is an intoxicated person and who is not? Is there going to be a new plan to administer a Breathalyzer to every person before he's allowed to order a drink? You think it takes forever to get a drink in a bar now. Imagine the amount of time you'll spend waiting in line then.

But if there is no Breathalyzer, how will the bartenders know who is drunk and who isn't? Will the tavern and the drunken idiot who caused the accident both be punished? Or will the drunken idiot be absolved from responsibility with the tavern owner taking the fall? Whatever happened to being responsible for your own actions instead of blaming someone else? It's hard to answer these questions. We'll just have to wait and see.

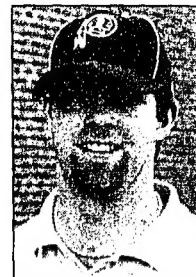
Another proposed bill, LB 594, would target select repeat drunk drivers. This one makes more sense than the previous one, but still prompts questions.

Now stay with me, because this one is a little wordy. LB 594, according to the Jan. 19 issue of the aforementioned newspaper, "would substantially increase the penalty for a repeat offender who had a blood-alcohol level of at least twice the legal limit."

To those of you who are at least one-time offenders (which I am not, knock on wood) and don't know what the legal limit is, it's .08. So twice that would be .16.

If this bill passes, it makes repeat drunk driving a Class IV felony, rather than a misdemeanor.

The Weekly Rant



Andrew Crnic

The misdemeanor was punishable by up to 90 days in jail, but moving to a felony makes it punishable by up to five years in jail. Yes, I said five years in jail.

Now, I'm no warden, and I don't make bags upon bags of money, but I do pay some taxes. Is this really the best idea? Is it really worth all that money to imprison drunk drivers

for five years? Wait a minute. Who am I kidding? Nobody actually serves the maximum penalty for anything anymore, do they? Can't you always plead down and get a reduced sentence?

The other, and clearly my favorite bill is LB 598. This bill proposes a new liquor tax. By increasing the tax on a six-pack by 7 cents and a bottle of wine by 8 cents, the state could raise as much as \$10 million each year. This money will go to help fund alcohol and substance abuse programs.

Now, my roommate got a driving under the influence charge this summer, and to take care of it, he had to take some alcohol education class. Any one of us who has been through these diversion-style classes knows they are a joke. Most of the information has already been put into our heads long ago, and few new important facts arise. Even more perplexing is the fact that you usually have to pay for these classes out of your own pocket. Hmm ...very interesting. If this bill passes, you'll pay for these classes more than once. We'll all have to pay, through tax money, and then you'll pay again if you get in trouble. That's asinine. Even more asinine are some of the ideas floating around in the State Legislature. They want more money (which they always do), they want more people to blame (which will create more money), and they want more drunk drivers in prison (which costs more money).



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